

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting
Thursday, June 17, 2004
2:00 PM
433 Blatt Bldg.

Members Present: Mr. Alex Martin, Mr. Bob Daniel, Senator Mike Fair, Mrs. Susan Marlowe, Representative Joe Neal, Mr. Harold Stowe, Mrs. Molly Spearman for Superintendent Inez Tenenbaum, Representative Bob Walker, and Mr. Larry Wilson

I. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Martin welcomed members and guests.

II. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of May 20 were approved as distributed.

III. Closing the Gap

Mr. Martin introduced Mr. Potter. Mr. Potter detailed the report *The performance of historically underachieving groups of students in South Carolina Elementary and Middle Schools: A call to action*. This is the second annual report on closing the achievement gap and uses projections, based upon national performance, to gauge how South Carolina is achieving its 2010 goal.

Mr. Martin introduced three principals whose schools were recognized for accomplishments in closing the gap. The principals, Mrs. Stephanie Strous, Stono Park Elementary School; Mrs. Polly Elkins, East Elementary School; and Mrs. June Lominack, Dutch Fork Elementary School, described the elements of their school program that supported high achievement by all students. Among the common themes were highly structured insistent attention to teaching, affection and expectation for every student, collegial environment, and *good, old-fashioned* willingness to do the hard work.

Mr. Martin presented certificates of recognition to principals from recognized schools.

IV. Subcommittee Reports

A. Academic Standards and Assessments

Mr. Wilson presented on behalf of the Subcommittee. He outlined the High School Alternate Assessment and the review process for the assessment and the recommendations regarding continuing professional development in the use of the instrument. The Subcommittee felt the instrument is a strong tool for assessment and instruction planning. The State Department of Education accepted the recommendations of the Subcommittee; therefore, Mr. Wilson moved approval of the assessment.

Mr. Wilson discussed the South Carolina Readiness Assessment (SCRA) and the questions raised in the review process that could not be answered with the materials provided by the State Department of Education or had arisen during the process of development. He asked the EOC to approve a memorandum outlining questions to which the

State Department of Education should respond before making a decision.
The memorandum was approved

B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms

Mr. Daniel reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He reviewed the final budget appropriations and detailed areas of particular interest to the accountability program.

Mr. Daniel reviewed the report on the use of the flexibility provision. The report is to be provided to members of the General Assembly in accordance with proviso directions.

C. Parental and Community Involvement

There was no report.

D. Public Awareness

There was no report.

E. Administration

Mr. Martin recognized Deborah Elmore and thanked her for her years of service to the Education Oversight Committee.

Having no other business, the Education Oversight Committee adjourned at 3:45 p.m.